

OVER THE VALLEY

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School Closes

The Gordon Creek school, situated several miles above Elgin, closed with proper exercises Tuesday of this week. Mrs. Eldon Rusk has been the teacher of this year and there have been 13 pupils enrolled, more than 50 per cent of whom made perfect attendance records. For such punctuality and attendance the teacher presented proper certificates, which had been sent out by the county superintendent of schools, E. A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction. The pupils who made these records were:

- Marie Smith
- George Smith
- Bonnie Smith
- Edna Erickson
- Waide Wells
- Martina Wells
- Evelyn Wilson

Pioneer Funeral

Funeral services for the late Sam Williamson, are announced for Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Snodgrass funeral home. Although Mr. Wade Brooks who are on their way from Cuba, to the effect that they plan to return to the valley by tomorrow, Saturday.

From Montana

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Barnum arrived in the valley Monday night and have been guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Austin west of Summerville. The two families were neighbors years ago in Montana and have enjoyed this visit together.

Is Feeble

We are very sorry to hear that Grandpa (J. A.) Knight, whose home is on Cricket Flat has not been very well of late and it seems to be growing feebly. Although Mr. Knight is in his 92nd year he has always been very active and only recently returned from a winter's trip to California which he took unaccompanied.

Plan to Come West

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln of the Mill Creek canyon is looking forward with a great deal of expectancy to the arrival, within a few weeks, of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Spaeth. The relatives plan to leave their home in Toledo, Ohio about the middle of the month, will stop in St. Paul, Minn., and their arrival will remain here indefinitely.

Program for Mothers

The Ladies' Society of Island City is arranging a special program to be given at the Community church Thursday afternoon of next week at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. This is not the regular meeting of the aid but is a special afternoon planned in honor of the mothers of that community. It is reported that the program which is being prepared is quite interesting.

Called by Death

Paul Knautz of the Iowa district was in Riverville, Washington yesterday attending the funeral of an aunt, Mrs. Meyer. He was accompanied to the Washington city by his father-in-law, John Speckhart of La Grande.

Is Ill

It is reported to us that Harold Blanchard is ill of the small pox at the home of Mrs. Blanchard's mother, Mrs. Mary Woodcock of Cricket Flat.

Is Hopeful

Little Miss Harriet Avery of Island City is recovering in a cast, though she is hoping the cast may be removed within a short time. Harriet has been carrying around this extra burden since she fell a good many weeks ago and fractured her arm.

Horse Injured

One of the best work horses belonging to R. G. Chenault who lives in the Willow Creek district, was quite severely cut on a disc last week. The cuts are healing all the time, but Mr. Chenault will not be able to use the horse this season, in all probability.

From Washington

Mrs. Dick Smith, who lives east of Island City has as her guest, Mrs. Corbin of Washington, who will visit with Mrs. Smith and with other relatives and friends in the valley.

Luncheon Guest

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Price of the Mill Creek canyon road had for their guests at luncheon Wednesday Miss Amanda Zabel and her family, who are department at the Eastern Oregon Normal school. This was Miss Zabel's first visit to this wonderful part of the county, and also to the very attractive home Camp Yew Bow. There are so many things of interest both indoors and out at the Price's that a visitor is kept busy all the time. Mr. and Mrs. Price are busy on the program of development which will take years to complete, but on which visitors see progress from season to season. Mr. Price has recently completed mounting, in pretty designs, the major part of his large collection of mounted birds in various sections over a period of years. To one who has never seen it, a trip to Camp Yew Bow, over a scenic road is most worth-while. Mr. Price stated that the camp will not be opened for boys this year, as has been the case for the last two seasons owing to the condition of the times.

Grange To Meet

The regular meeting of Pleasant Grove Grange is to be tomorrow Saturday evening, at the Grange hall.

Mill Is Down

Another item on the list of damages done by the storm last week, is the windmill on the Hugh Huron place on Brooks Lane which went over before the terrific gale.

Is Most Well

Harold Zurbrick of Moss Chapel is looking forward to the first of the week which seems to come very slowly. Harold has been quarantined at his home with smallpox, is quite well again now and looking forward to release which cannot come too soon.

Meeting Is Interesting

There were twenty-one at the home of Mrs. J. A. Gaskill near Imbler Wednesday night when the members of the Women's club of Imbler, Mrs. Keenan and Mrs. Berry being assistant hostesses. Mrs. Charles W. Cleaver presided over the business meeting after which Mrs. Harold Bingham presented the program which was a very fascinating study of Switzerland. A contest followed, Mrs. Cleaver being the successful contestant. The afternoon was concluded with the serving of refreshments by the three hostesses. The next meeting will be on May 13 at the home of Mrs. Charles Keenan.

Funeral Is Large

The funeral of T. J. Snider, for many years a prominent valley resident, was held at the home of Mrs. J. A. Gaskill near Imbler Wednesday afternoon. The funeral was held at 2 o'clock from the Snodgrass funeral home. Although Mr. Wade Brooks who are on their way from Cuba, to the effect that they plan to return to the valley by tomorrow, Saturday.

THE THINNING RANKS



Four years ago the meeting of the Union County Pioneer association at Riverside Park was intensely interesting because of the presence of many of our old pioneers. The above picture was taken of four of the men whose names are written indelibly on the early history of Union county and the Grande Ronde valley. The death of Sam Williamson on Tuesday of this week, leaves but one of the four yet among us, the Hon. Dunham Wright of Medical Springs. The four, reading from left to right are George Gray, J. H. Brown, Dunham Wright and Sam Williamson.

Long years ago when they were young men, Mr. Wright and Mr. Williamson were given the nickname, "The Missouri Twins." This name has stayed with them through all the years. The two have been the closest friends and have always delighted, when in each other's company, to

held Tuesday afternoon at the Presbyterian church in La Grande. The service was conducted by Rev. J. G. Wals and Rev. W. H. Herzog, with burial following in the Masonic cemetery. Only a few years ago, probably two, Mr. and Mrs. Snider retired from their farm in the Iowa district and had been since living in La Grande. Mr. Snider's death followed an operation for appendicitis. All of his children live in La Grande with the exception of Mrs. Herbert Speckhart who lives in the Iowa district.

Sunday Guests
Mr. and Mrs. Emil Miller, who reside on Cricket Flat had for their dinner guests last Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Breshars of Lower Cove.

Does Well
Bobby Duncan, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Duncan of the Mill Creek canyon road is having quite good success with his herd of purebred Jerseys. Bobby has some very good foundation stock, he is giving the animals excellent care, getting most of his instruction from his mother, who has raised purebred Jerseys for a long time, and also from the 4-H club in which he is very active. In the growing herd are a number of fine young calves.

Home From Portland
County agricultural agent, Harry C. Avery is home from Portland where he spent a few days the first of the week looking after business matters.

Better
Mrs. Frank Woodell of near Summerville is very much better from her recent attack of flu.

Resolves
Mrs. Everett Walkinger of the Valeria district has been substituting this week at the school for Mrs. Merle Howell. Mrs. Howell was dismissed for several days during the illness of little Betty Jane Howell, who started again the first of this week. Nothing has so completely stirred the hearts of the people in this district—the first of this week, of Betty Jane. No words need be said of this beautiful little girl—those who knew Betty Jane need none, and others could not appreciate any word picture of her. The parents, the grandmother, the other relatives have the sincere sympathy of the entire valley at this time.

Lad Injured
The young son of Ed Hartley of the Cove was rushed to a La Grande hospital yesterday afternoon following an accident in which the little lad had one finger, and perhaps more, of one hand injured. As this is being written the surgeons are still working on the injured member and particulars of the accident were not available.

Give Recital
Miss Clara Auclair of the valley presented her piano students in Elgin in a recital last Friday night at Elgin before a large and appreciative audience. The new Christian church here was filled to capacity and was beautifully decorated with hot house plants and cut flowers. There were five two-piano ensembles, two with 12 hand two with eight and one two-piano arrangement of the old favorite "The Glow Worm," with Ruth Merritt, talented ten-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Merritt at the first piano and Miss Auclair at the second piano. This was an especially brilliant number. The pupils all received much applause, their technique, interpretation and their poise being unusually good. Each pupil played a solo besides appearing in the ensembles. The numbers were collected by Florence Auclair and modern composers. The others appearing on the program were Ruby Scott, Catherine Barnes, Wilma Harwood, Ruth Adams, Ruth Von der Aelst, Marie Harris, Irene Arant, Georgia Wood, Dorothy Sechtel, Genevieve Saunders and Marjorie Hindman. Two songs by Florence Auclair and two musical readings by Wilma Hill added to the program.

Movers Sheep
E. J. Green has moved his band of sheep from his ranch near Elgin to range on Deer creek.

To Corvallis
The Union county contingency of high school boys, representing their departments at the state convention of the Future Farmers of America has made the journey to the state capital at Corvallis. While we are glad for each boy who had the opportunity to make the trip, and we know they all worked hard in order to get to go, yet we are exceptionally glad that Jack Cole of the Imbler high school was among the number chosen. Jack is the lad we have spoken of in this column at times. For the first two years of his high

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER, LA GRANDE, ORE.

was elected a teacher of the second grade at Wallowa.

Is Some Better
Reports from Mrs. Dan Westenskow of Imbler who has been a hospital patient for several weeks, are to the effect that she is making some improvement now. We are told that the family was expecting that she might be able to return to her home within a few days, but were not able to verify this report. We hope it is true for Mrs. Westenskow has had a long siege and a distressing one.

A Fine Herd
One of the finest lots of cattle we have seen in the valley is the herd which Charles Geckler has in his feed lot on his ranch near La Grande. They are white face cattle and are in excellent condition.

Coming O. K.
Virgil Chadwick, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Chadwick of Lower Cove, who received his leg injuries ten days or so ago when his horse stepped on him, is reported to be doing splendidly now. The injuries to the flesh are all healing satisfactorily, it is reported.

COVE HILL BILLY DISSERTATES ON GOVERNMENT, ETC.

Much of the material used in writing my views on "Government" is taken from the many observations I have made since the time for more than forty years. The conclusions at which I have so far arrived touch the subject from an altogether different angle than the many ideas I have had the good fortune to read and hear. My humble position in life as a Hill Billy, in most instances would stop my entering into such a profound discussion—it would at least perhaps make me apologize to my superiors for my so-called "wisdom." But I have no apology to make. I write these, my own conclusive ideas of today—not set ideas—for tomorrow, I may learn better—for two reasons. The one and foremost is that the All-Minded source of all intelligence, which focuses in any other man's brain, focuses in my own. I have the same natural law, the same common sense, the same inalienable right to receive or reject wisdom. It is up to me to know or not to know, and with Willard Ernest I say, "I know." "It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

The other reason is that the angle taken is a most interesting one. And I am sure that all will read with some satisfaction my views on "Government." As all matter pertaining to such question of importance is invariably more or less ambiguous—hard to arrange in a clear and concise manner, please bear in mind the following points: The word "government" is immensely broad in its own sense. It means the governing of a nation, of a county, of a community by the community. It means the governing of a state of counties by the state. It means the governing of the world by the world. It means the governing of the whole universe of worlds—planets, stars, suns and moons with all there is and ever will be by the great God. This law is recognized best as the one natural law and the law of God.

With this you can readily understand that all must conform themselves to the highest laws in the order given in obedience to the natural law and the law of God. Understand also that wherever there is no tolerance whatever, all must pay the penalty of transgressing any part or all of the superior law. Then, remember that all laws are made by man, and that "government" are compared and contrasted with those natural elements and things governed by that superior natural law. The law where man has not altogether hampered its progression. And don't forget this point: everywhere in past records and histories where the people are asked whether it is from an overruled and despotic country, or simply for an adventurous desire, when in their new country and land, they wish no other law than the natural law governing, I find a people which soon conform themselves to their new surroundings and materially, mentally and spiritually, are made more and more of those realistic older ideas of home making and in its stead the new idealistic ideas of wealth and power soon makes a people entirely discontented and unhappy.

One more point I want to impress upon your mind is that of all the laws, tribal or class or mankind that look self possession of a new country, I find none that can come up to the standards of the so well governed lands of the West. I just love to read about or to hear old timers tell of the doings of these old pioneers, especially those before 1870. I mean that moral, their spirit of human fellowship. I would not perhaps relish their physical struggling with their crude implements and ideas of wealth and power. I fancy that if we were back in those days we could and would do the same—and they would also do the same as we are now doing it with us today; but I love and want to live their spirit of humanity—in other words I want to have the heart and consistency of an Ezra Meeker, who he was driving an ox team and I am now driving an automobile.

It was in 1862 that the established immigrants along the Oregon Trail began to send away for locks to lock their doors. That tells me that a new spirit was getting in the country. But previous to that time, the other side of people can give me a better lesson by their almost self governing method, following as near as could be that same natural law, the law of God, more easily or to all natural things in so well living.

Now that you have the subject in mind, I want to tell you a new spirit of its text. I want to take you on a little journey to where I found the material to write this. I will tell you why I wrote it. First of all I want you to understand that I am not mad, sore or have a great hole zoning in the present conditions of this country, but I am possessed with the spirit that it ought to be better. I am one of those that today never good enough—I want a better tomorrow, although I am contented of today I am not yet satisfied. A satisfied person is a dead money. Second, I am forever seeking high and low for the cause of what is today, so

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